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Numb. 2.

The English Guzman:

OR

Captain Hiltons Memoirs,

With Several other of the

GRAND INFORMERS.

WHether *Madam Hilton* has yet received an Express from her Son of his *Knight-hood*, I am not Informed; but it is fear'd the good Old Gentlewoman may expire at the News, and the same Angel that brought the Message, carry away her Soul: Great Expectations there are of the Issue of affairs in *Hungary*, but much greater hopes now that an old Prophecy is like to be fulfilled.

The time shall come, That Doctors and Knights
Shall be as common as Woodcocks and Suites!

And really, if Mr. *Narrative* be once made a *Doctor*, and our *Captain* a *Knight*, it bids as fair towards the Accomplishment, as any thing I have heard these seven years: Let the Learned determine, Whether the *Sacred Scarf* will more adorn the [illegible] *Neck*, or the *Gilded Spurs* become the others *Heeles*. But surely as the *Pack-horse* will travel more cheerfully at the sound of his own *Bells*; Sir *John* must trudge about his Errands of Reformation with delight, at the Musick of his own *Harmonious Heeles*.

Amongst the Odd Misadventures that befel our Knight, in the days of his Errantry, I am loth to omit, and yet know not how to Relate his Travels in or near *Smithfield*, where he *Lodg'd*, (or to speak more properly) *Quarter'd* at the house of a good Old Woman, but what he did *in the Sheets*, or what he did *with the Sheets*, his Landlady can best relate, for I cannot perswade my Pen to shed one drop of Ink on so sad an Accident: I shall therefore wrap up the bad business in *Fair Paper*, though he was not so Gentile as to do it in *Clean Linnen*.

But now the great Soul of our Captain, breath'd nothing but Coach and Horses, he began to smell the Reek of Honours, to support which Grandeur he falls upon several *Aldermen* of the City of *London*, and singles out Sir *Robert Clayton*, against whom to Commence a Suit, for not doing his duty in disturbing and Suppressing *Conventicles*, And who can blame him? There is a fine Seat, Nobly adorned with Plantations of Beautiful Trees, and every way inviting the eye, and the Appetite, if he could come at it, and would have made a fair *Knights-fee*, to maintain his Presaged Honour: Against this Gentleman he brings his Action, and formally set forth in his Declaration how the Defendant had Refused to answer the *Spur*, when *Jockey* would have prompted him on in the Work of *Reformation*: The matter comes to a Tryal in *Guild-Hall*, Witnesses were all ready cut and dryed, and Counsel learned in the Law, were fee'd to Agravate the Crime; when from an ill quarter came a Whisper of the *Captains Recorded Forgery*, and so a Hopeful Design was blasted, and Sir *Roberts* Plantations stand entire where they did, and may they e ver-flourish in his Possession!

One thing was Remarkable in this Tryal, that our *Captain* swore in the Court, *That he was not to have or ever expected any profit or Benefit by the Suit, in Case it was carryed against the Defendant*: And yet where to maintain the White Beaver Hat, the Periwigg, the blew Velvet Cape, the Sword, and other Gallantreys, due to a person of his Character, unless from these Fines, is not imaginable.

One peculiar Talent the Captain has been faithful in laying out, to compound with

Delin-

Delinquents, when their goods were distrained or the Moneys Levyed; Defrauding the King, the Poor, of their Respective third parts, and Pocketing up what he could get to his own use. A few instances of these pranks will satisfy the Reader.

One Mr. *Barham* of *Hackney*, had his Goods distrained upon the tenth Conviction, for preaching at a Conventicle: The Warrant was issued out against him by the Name of *George Barham*; but some Errors being committed in the Prosecution, Mr. *Hilton*, (for he was then no better) acknowledges his Mistakes against him, by the name of *Arthur Barham*, and at last takes a small sum of Money to discharge the Goods, and seales a general Release to him by the Name of *Anthony Barham*; but whether he was *George*, or *Arthur*, or *Anthony*, it makes not a farthing matter, for *John* went away with the Money, [illegible] and his Majesty must get their shares where they can find 'em.

Two persons about *Druery Lane* had their Goods distrained for ten pounds a piece, the Money on the behalf of one of them was paid into the Justices hands, and an Appeal brought in due form of Law to the Sessions; but our Captain, who durst not much confide in the merits of his cause, believing that a small sum certain would be more for his Occasions, then a greater that must run the hazard of a fair Tryal, ingeniously Compounded the matter for thirty Shillings in hand, and in Conclusion, the ten pounds were restored, his Majesty and the Poor cheated, but all parties else very well satisfyed, especially our Captain, who assigned the 30*s.* to his own *Privy Purse*, and other *secret Services*, which the Vulgar are not concern'd to understand.

Our Ancestors I observe were always jealous of this brood of Informers, that they would prove the Plague, and Pest of the Nation: and therefore I find that in the narrow Compass of a few years, four Acts of Parliament were made to restrain their Exorbitances, 18 *Eliz.* 5. 28 *Eliz.* 5. 31 *Eliz.* 10. 21 *Jacob.* 4. Now if it should happen that our Captain, or any of his Accomplices should be prosecuted upon one of them (as I am assured some of them will) the Offendor upon Conviction must Shoo the Wooden Horse, and be Casheer'd the service of an Informer for ever.

For the *Religion* of our Captain, I am much to seek; though something was intimated in a former Paper, to be toucht upon in the matter, but we are forbidden by the Learned to dispute about *Non-Entities*, and it seems more Ridiculous then to enquire of the *Form* of the Imaginary *first matter*, which is supposed to have *no form at all*. But if we will go by Conjectures, His Extract, his Education were Popish; and I am informed that ——— *Person*, at ——— *Board*, gave Assurance there, that if it might be for the Service of his Majesty, he could prove him a Papist! And if we may Judge a Bird by those of the same Feather, he must needs be of that Perswasion: since many of his Accomplices, Agents, Instruments, and such as pass for his Honourary Servants, are undoubtedly of that Wild Religion. At present I give the Reader this only instance: Mr. *Hilton* coming into *Westminster Hall*, in *Michaelmas Term* last, met a Gentleman to whom he was indebted for the Remainder of an Account standing in the Book ever since he kept the Alehouse in *Fetter-lane*; The Captain seeing him, and being, or pretending to be in great haste, the Gentleman askt whither so fast? The Captain answers, That some of his Servants, (for his Majesty allowed him fifty) were prosecuted in the Kings Bench for being Popish Recusants, and he was going to fetch them off. O the Cause! the Cause! What had become of the Good Cause, had not Mr. *Hilton* engaged to Rescue his Catholick Instruments? Such a high value he puts upon himself, as if his Appearance in the Court was more then a *Writ Prosciphi*, or one touch of his hand could *loose the Bands of St. Peter*, and all his Proselytes.

I ought not to conceal the Captains Sufferings, and what hard things he has endured from the cruel Fanaticks: It must therefore be understood that in olden time, our Captain having decently disposed of his Lady, held an Alehouse in *Commendam* in *Fetter-lane*; and entrusted a right Vertuous Gentlewoman, you may be sure, to manage the Province: In what Character she stood there, is a Secret; but the Captain stood engaged for the house, the Drink &c. When the smiling Fates called him off from that employ, to those greater Employments, which they had determined for him; the house, and calling was quitted; and some odd Farthings were left upon the score for Ale and Beer: It happened the last Summer that the Creditors, presuming it may be, that he was grown rich in the Pocket, by his late Blessed Employment, gave him by a Bayliff a clap on the shoulder, (that was a gentle place) and hurried him into some blind hole or other, till he had given Security for the Money, on the first day of *Michaelmas* Term; but Perquisites of his place, all his Compositions, all his Thirds, have not yet discharged the Debt; besides what he owes for Garret-rent, and Betty Timber, about *York*-Buildings. But thus much

much at present of the Story of the Captain, which the Reader may (if he pleases) Style *Hilsons Remains.*

A *Second* to our Captain, (if he be a *Second*) is *Gabriel Shad*, a Brother of the Fraternity of Informers, whose Exploits would fill the *Wooden Legend*: What first, what last to insist upon, is difficult to resolve; matters crowding and thronging so fast upon us, that we cannot please all, and some must be post-poned.

The first thing I take notice of, bears date 1675. when he robbed one Mr. *Leman*, a worthy Citizen, of about *Three Hundred Pounds worth of Tobacco*: But he could not carry off the Roguery so cleverly, but he was taken, committed to *Newgate*, Indicted and Convicted, and upon the 14th of *April* 1675. *BURNT IN THE HAND*: A Person of his Merit, it seems, might Challenge the *Benefit of his Clergy*, &c.

From *Newgate* he was Transplanted to the *Fleet*, whence attempting to make his escape, he was forced to do *Pennance* according to the Discipline of the Colledge, by standing in Irons, in a *Dogs-head*, which is the reason why, in revenge, he severely Prosecuted *Tub-Preaching*: wherein if the Reader will be curious to be Informed, let him consult the Records of those Prisons.

In the year 1678. the Chronicles find him at *Coventry*, where he openly declared himself to be a Papist, and refused to take the *Oath of Allegiance*; Nor is it any wonder that he should in that juncture declare himself, when the Plot was just ready to break out, and many went to *Rome* before hand, for fear of being stifled in the Crowd. But because the World will not believe what Neighbours it has, I shall give a true Copy of the Warrant, under the Hand of Two of his Majesties Justices of the Peace, by vertue of which he was sent to *Lobs-Pound*, and he has hated that *Name* ever since.

Civitas Coventr. To *Henry Tailor*, Keeper of His Majesties Goal For the City and County of *Coventry*.

WE *whose Names are subscribed, Two of His Majesties Justices of the Peace for the City and County of* Coventry, *do herewith send you the Body of* Gabriel Shadd, *who declareth himself to be a* Roman Catholick, *and hath refused* to take the Oath of Allegiance, *according to the Statute in that Case, made and provided: And in His Majesties Name Command you to Receive him, and safely to keep, till he be delivered by due course of Law. Hereof fail not at you will answer the Contrary. Given under our Hands and Seals the Thirtieth day of* October, *in the Thirtieth year of* King Charles *the Second, over* England, &c. Anno; Domini, 1678.

Vera Copia: Nath. Harriman.
Henry Taylor, Thomas Bewley.
Samuel Throughton,
S. Gilbert,
Thomas Hudson.

From *October* to *December*, he lay in the Goal, peremptorily refusing to take the *Oath of Allegiance*; and yet he can conscienciously Prosecute the Dissenters as Rebels and Traytors, who are ready to take the said Oath, and to give further security for their Loyalty. Being weary of a Prison, he fairly gave his Landlord the Dog to hold, yet with this Civility, that he left a Letter behind him to the Goaler; of which, because it will further give light to his ingenious Knaveries, I shall from the original give the Reader a Copy.

To be For Mr. Henry Taylor, *present.* 24 *Decemb.* 1678.

SIR,

COuld I have believed I might not have met too much prejudice and ignorance among the Magistrates (set on for hanging up the Gates of your City) I should not have been afraid to appear before them at the Sessions, notwithstanding the severity of His Majesties Laws; but have hoped to have received his Clemency, as others have afforded them, who are committed on the like occasions. And further I do assure you, that I am not fled from Justice, but have taken the opportunity to remove to that place where it may be justly administred: And therefore purpose to render my self a Prisoner to one of the Capital Prisons, where I cannot be refused entrance, for a Reason to me best known. Sir, I now have to say something to your Place and the Debt I owe you. First to your Place; No Law can hurt you, I making good what I have written: And as to your Debt, God can be my witness I have attempted such ways for

payment,

payment, that had it not been for your sake, I should both have blushed, and sweat to have thought of, much more to attempt: (Warwick for that!*) but be confident of I live, you shall have your Debt. Pray therefore follow my Direction, I am debted to you,* 2 *l.* 10 *s. or thereabouts. Mr.* Holmes *(the cause of my misfortune) hath in his hands, Goods of mine to the value of* 30 *s. and upwards: I have in my Chamber in Goods, and to the like value, Mr.* John Olives *oweth me ten shillings, as by the will appear. Thus it is: If you would have your money presently paid, let no one see my Goods in my Chamber, until you have your money: I have contrived that Mr.* Holmes *may have a Letter suddenly after I am gone; which informs him, I have left my working Tools, and other Goods, not giving him the particulars. And desire he will he will pay the money I owe you. He from the great zeal he hath to this Trade, will suddenly pay the Sum, rest satisfied your money is well secured: and for your civil usage, I am alwayes secured,*

Your loving Servant, Gabriel Shadd.

Now although I dare not mend forms and False-English in this learned Letter, which I am affraid the Printers over-officious zeal will do, yet methinks a *Text* so authentick should not want a short *Comment*, which for the Readers sake I will here present him.

Prejudice and Ignorance amongst the Magistrates,] 'Tis the usual method of Papist to arraign the Justice of the Kingdom, when any punishment is inflicted on their Fellows.

Set on for hanging up the Gates of your City] 'Tis possible they had more prejudice at those that pluckt them down: but if they had hanged up *Shadd* there, they had certainly rewarded m according to his works.

The severities of His Majesties Laws] Yes, every thing is severe to *Catholicks*, but *Gabriel* never complains of his own severities contrary to Law; but all is cruelty that is inflicted on them according to Law.

Hoped to receive his Clemency as others have afforded them, who are Committed on the like occasions.] That is, for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance, a security to Government, which every Loyal Subject ought to give: but see how the Insinuator would seduce us to believe His Majesties Indulgence to Papists; and as if it were the common practice to abate them the Common Test for Loyalty.

I do assure you I am not fled from Justice.] A rare invention to break the Goal because he would not fly from Justice! But it seems he fled onely from Countrey-Justice, to *Westminster*-Justice.

But I took this opportunity to remove.] I suppose when all were drunk, or fast asleep; or some such happy opportunity.

And therefore purpose to render my self to one of the Capital Prisons] Very proper! whether should a Capital Offender remove, but to a Capital Prison? and yet it is questionable whether ever he Executed his purpose, It soon began to languish and die, and scarce out-lived its first breath: for the next news we hear of him after some vagaries and Pranks, was his Commitment.

They cannot refuse me Entrance.] No doubt he has provided well for that: for what Goaler can refuse him admittance, who carries his *Mittimus* engraven in his *Hand*? But hereafter it may come to be a Book Case; That none shall be refused a Goal, that have a mind to it.

For a Reason to my self best known.] Yes! and to all the world besides! though I deny not *Gabriel* may have twenty Reasons why he deserves a Goal, and a Gallows too, which none yet knows but himself.

No Law can hurt you, if I do as I have written.] *Shads Case!* for the indemnifying all Goalers upon Escapes.

I have attempted such ways for payment, that I should have blushed and sweat] Who can believe that ever he should have grace enough to blush, though every one knows he has done enough to make him sweat. The thought of Hanging is enough to put a man in a sweat in a Cold fit of an Ague.

Warwick for that!] Here is some mystical Roguery coucht under this *Jargon*, which onely a Gallows-Confession must discover.

Pray follow my Directions!] Ay! If you have a mind to come to *Tyburn!*

If you would have your money, let none see the Goods in my Chamber] For it is ten to one they will be challenged, and then you may seek the money where you can. *Cetera desiderantur.* Enough for a Penny till next. Farewel.

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